

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are presently pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Application having PCT Publication No. WO 96/30786 ('786 publication).

As noted by the Examiner, the '786 publication fails to teach "texturing at least a portion, but not all portions, of all the surfaces of the faces" of the prisms. However, it is respectfully submitted that this limitation is not an obvious modification to the process disclosed in the '786 publication. By providing selective texturing of the faces in accordance with the present invention, incident light is scattered in certain areas, which greatly enhances the whiteness (CAP Y) of the retroreflective sheeting.

Accordingly, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection under the Judicially Created Doctrine of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 and 13-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,565,151 in view of the '786 publication.

A Terminal Disclaimer and Certificate under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b), with fees, are enclosed to overcome the rejection with respect to the '151 patent. Independent Claims 1 and 13 contain the limitation of selectively textured prism surfaces, which is not taught or suggested by the '786 publication.

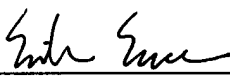
Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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